

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A base support for supporting an elongated member in a substantially upright position comprising a base member having a greater length than width and bottom and top walls and opposite side walls, one of the side walls being substantially straight throughout its length, and the other of the side walls having an intermediate length that is spaced further from the one side wall than end lengths of the other side wall to provide the base member with a wider intermediate width than end widths, and a mounting hole extending through the top wall in the wider intermediate width for closely receiving an end portion of an elongated member to maintain the elongated member in a substantially upright position when the base member is placed on a generally horizontal support surface.
- 15 2. The base support of claim 1 wherein the end lengths of the other side wall are in substantial alignment with each other in parallel spaced relation from the one side wall and the mounting hole has a center that is substantially in the same plane as the end lengths of the other side wall.
- 20 3. The base support of claim 2 wherein the intermediate length of the other side wall has outwardly angled end portions extending toward each other and an intermediate portion extending between the end portions in parallel spaced relation to the one side wall.
- 25 4. The base support of claim 1 wherein the mounting hole extends completely through the base member.
- 30 5. The base support of claim 1 wherein the mounting hole has a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinally extending ribs that are transversely rounded for establishing line contact with the end portion of the elongated member when inserted into the mounting hole.

6. The base support of claim 5 wherein upper end portions of the ribs are axially rounded to facilitate insertion of the end portion of the elongated member into the mounting hole through the top wall.

5 7. The base support of claim 1 wherein the mounting hole has a non-circular cross-sectional shape to prevent a similarly shaped end portion of the elongated member from rotating when inserted into the mounting hole.

10 8. The base support of claim 1 wherein the base member is substantially hollow and has a fill hole adjacent one end for filling the base member with a flowable ballast material.

15 9. The base support of claim 8 wherein the top wall of the base member has angled surfaces that slope outwardly toward the bottom wall adjacent opposite ends of the base member.

10. The base support of claim 9 wherein the fill hole is in one of said angled surfaces of the top wall.

20 11. The base support of claim 8 wherein the base member has thinned out substantially solid end portions to facilitate attachment of anti-skid pads to the bottom wall at the end portions.

25 12. The base support of claim 11 wherein the bottom wall is recessed at the end portions to aid in locating the anti-skid pads on the bottom wall.

13. The base support of claim 11 wherein the anti-skid pads are stapled to the bottom wall at the end portions.

30 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the top wall of the end portions has raised ribs to provide increased strength at the end portions.

15. The base support of claim 1 wherein one of the top and bottom walls has a plurality of axially spaced apart stacking ribs and the other of the top

and bottom walls has corresponding recesses for receipt of the stacking ribs of other such base supports to maintain a plurality of the base supports in stacked relation when stacked one on top of another.

5        16. The base support of claim 1 further comprising a carrying handle on one side of the base member.

10        17. The base support of claim 16 wherein the carrying handle is attached to the other side wall of the base member.

15        18. The base support of claim 17 wherein the carrying handle extends axially from one end portion of the intermediate length of the other side wall along a portion of one of the end lengths of the other side wall.

20        19. The base support of claim 18 wherein the carrying handle is integral with the other side wall of the base member.

25        20. The base support of claim 18 wherein the carrying handle does not protrude laterally outwardly beyond the intermediate length of the other side wall.

20        21. The base support of claim 18 wherein the base member is substantially hollow and has a fill hole adjacent the end of the base member toward which the carrying handle extends to allow the base member to be filled with a flowable ballast material through the fill hole when the base member is stood on the other end.

25        22. The base support of claim 1 wherein the base member is made of molded plastic.

30        23. A base support comprising a base member for supporting an elongated member in a substantially upright position, the base member having one side wall that is substantially straight throughout its length and an other side wall that is substantially straight and parallel to the one side wall except intermediate the length of the other side wall which extends laterally outwardly to

provide the base member with a wider intermediate width than end widths, and a mounting hole extending through the intermediate width of the base member for receipt of an end portion of the elongated member.

5        24. The base support of claim 23 wherein the mounting hole has a center that is substantially in the same plane as end lengths of the other side wall.

10        25. The base support of claim 23 wherein the other side wall has an intermediate length with outwardly angled end portions that extend toward each other and an intermediate portion extending between the end portions in parallel spaced relation to the one side wall.

15        26. The base support of claim 23 wherein the mounting hole has a non-circular cross-sectional shape.

20        27. The base support of claim 26 wherein the mounting hole has a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinally extending ribs that are transversely rounded for establishing line contact with a non-circular end portion of the elongated member when inserted into the mounting hole.

25        28. The base support of claim 27 wherein the ribs have axially rounded end portions to facilitate insertion of the end portion of the elongated member into the mounting hole.

29. A base support for supporting an elongated member in a generally upright position comprising a base member having spaced apart top and bottom walls and opposite side walls, and a mounting hole extending through the base member between the top and bottom walls, the mounting hole having a plurality of laterally spaced longitudinally extending ribs that are transversely rounded for establishing line contact with an end portion of an elongated member when inserted into the mounting hole.

30. The base support of claim 29 wherein the ribs have axially rounded end portions adjacent the top wall to facilitate insertion of the end portion of an elongated member into the mounting hole.

5 31. The base support of claim 29 wherein the mounting hole has a non-circular cross-sectional shape for preventing a similarly shaped end portion of an elongated member from rotating when inserted into the mounting hole.

10 32. The base support of claim 29 wherein the base member is substantially hollow and has a fill hole adjacent one end for ease of filling of the base member with a flowable ballast material when stood up on the other end.

15 33. The base support of claim 29 wherein the base member has solid opposite end portions that are substantially thinner than the base member intermediate the end portions to facilitate attachment of anti-skid pads to the bottom wall at the end portions.

20 34. The base support of claim 33 wherein the bottom wall of the base member is recessed at the end portions to aid in locating the anti-skid pads on the bottom wall at the end portions.